

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: BISHOPS CALL ON CLERGY TO CEASE CHURCH
PRAYERS FOR MAKARIOS; OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

BEGIN SUMMARY: BISHOPS ISSUE ENCYCLICAL CONFIRMING
DECISION TO DEFROCK ARCHBISHOP AND DECLARING HIM
EXCLUDED FROM CHURCH PRAYERS. IN INTERVIEW WITH
GERMAN PERIODICAL, MAKARIOS CONTINUES VERBAL ATTACK
ON GRIVAS, BUT IS FORTHCOMING TOWARDS ATHENS.
PRO- GOVT PRESS CLAIMS UNSYG SUMMONED GREEK PERM REP
TO PROTEST GRIVAS TERRORISM. ON RETURN FROM
ATHENS, GREEK AMB LAGACOS SAYS HE WILL CONTINUE
MEDIATORY EFFORTS. END SUMMARY

1. IN ENCYCLICAL ISSUED APRIL 19, CYPRUS BISHOPS
CALLED ON CLERGY TO DISCONTINUE CUSTOMARY PRAYERS
FOR ARCHBISHOP IN CHURCH SERVICES. INSTEAD, PRIESTS
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HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SUBSTITUTE NAME OF BISHOP YENNADIOS OF PAPHOS AS LOCUM TENENS. BISHOPS WENT ON TO DECLARE THAT THEIR DECISION TO DEFROCK MAKARIOS WAS FINAL, BUT ADDED THAT ELECTIONS FOR NEW ARCHBISHOP WOULD NOT BE CALLED FOR TIME BEING SINCE CYPRUS CHURCH WAS " IN DISTRESS."

COMMENT: MANY PRELATES, PARTICULARLY PARISH PRIESTS DEPENDENT UPON DIOCESAN FUNDS, HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN ABLE TO STRADDLE FENCE IN MAKARIOS- BISHOPS DISPUTE. FORCED TO CHOOSE NOW BETWEEN REFERRING TO MAKARIOS OR YENNADIOS IN CHURCH RITE, THEY ARE FACED WITH PAINFUL DECISION.

2. MAKARIOS INTERVIEW WITH WEEKLY GERMAN MAGAZINE " BUNTE ILLUSTRIERTE" APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS APRIL 20. ARCHBISHOP CONTINUED CRITICIZE GRIVAS, NOTING THAT GENERAL WAS NOT ONLY CAUSING NATIONAL HARM BUT TARNISHING NAME WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN LINKED WITH CYPRUS LIBERATION STRUGGLE. HE REFRAINED, HOWEVER, FROM CRITICIZING ATHENS, COMMENTING THAT RELATIONS WITH GREEK GOVT HAD BEEN RESTORED AND COOPERATION WAS NOW HARMONIOUS. ON BISHOPS' DEFROCKING DECISION, HE REAFFIRMED PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT ACT WAS CONTRARY TO CANON LAW, NULL, VOID AND GROUNDLESS. FINALLY, MAKARIOS SAID HE HAD BEEN AND ALWAYS WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF UNION WITH GREECE.

COMMENT: LATTER REMARK OMITTS USUAL REFERENCE TO UNFEASIBILITY OF ENOSIS. LIKE OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS, IT APPEARS TOTALLY INDIFFERENT TO TURK CYPRIOT REACTION.

3. PRO- GOVT PHILELEFTHEROS CARRIED BANNER STORY APRIL 19 CLAIMING UNSYG WALDHEIM HAD SUMMONED GREEK PERM REP PANAYOTACOS APRIL 16 TO CONVEY CONCERN OVER PRESENT CYPRUS SITUATION. WALDHEIM IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT GRIVAS' CONTINUING ACTIVITIES MAKE CONTINUATION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IMPOSSIBLE.

4. GREEK AMB LAGACOS RETURNED FROM ATHENS APRIL 19, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHERE HE TOLD PRESS HE HAD BRIEFED PREMIER

PAPADOPOULOS AND ALTERNATE FON MIN CAVALIERATOS ON RECENT CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS. LAGACOS IS SCHEDULED MEET WITH MAKARIOS AND CLERIDES APRIL 20. LOCAL PAPERS ALSO CARRY ATHENS PRESS REPORTS THAT LAGOCAS IS CARRYING MESSAGE TO GRIVAS ASKING THAT FOR REASONS OF " SUPREME NATIONAL INTEREST" GENERAL SUSPEND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

COMMENT: WHILE DENYING THAT LAGACOS CONSULTATIONS DEALT SOLELY WITH CLERIDES' THREAT TO RESIGN, OR INDEED THAT CLERIDES HAD MADE EXPLICIT DEMANDS OF ATHENS, GREEK EMB INDICATED TO US THAT SOME NEW SIGN OF GOG OPPOSITION TO GRIVAS MIGHT BE FORTH-COMING. MOST THAT COULD BE EXPECTED, IN GREEK EMB VIEW, WAS ATHENS PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPLICITLY CONDEMNING GRIVAS, RATHER THAN ACTIVE MEASURES TO BRING GENERAL UNDER CNTROL. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT LAGACOS PRESSED HARD FOR PUBLIC CONDEMNATION -- TO WHAT EFFECT IT SO FAR IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY.
POPPER

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